

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok, (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Strategic matters

Animals Committee

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Introduction

1. This report was prepared by Mr Carlos Ibero Solana, Chair of the Animals Committee, with contributions prepared from the members of the Committee and the assistance of the CITES Secretariat*. It covers the period from 15 October 2009 to 4 October 2012. During this period, the Committee held two meetings: the 25th meeting (AC25) in Geneva, Switzerland, from 18 to 22 July 2011, and the 26th meeting (AC26) in Geneva, Switzerland, from 15 to 20 March 2012 and in Dublin, Ireland, from 22 to 24 March. The session in Dublin was a joint meeting with the Plants Committee to deal with issues commonly assigned to both Committees by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting (CoP15). AC25 was attended by observers from 42 countries, 4 United Nations bodies, 3 intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and 42 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), for a total of 189 participants; AC26 was attended by observers of 38 countries, 4 United Nations bodies, 4 IGOs and 39 NGOs, for a total of 172 participants.
2. The Committee wants to express its gratitude to the authorities of Ireland, which hosted the joint Animals Committee - Plants Committee meeting mentioned above for organizing and hosting it so generously and effectively.
3. The Committee also wishes to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for the organization and preparation of the documentation for both meetings, and for all its constant intersessional support.
4. Listed below is the membership of the Animals Committee. On 25 March 2010, immediately after the closure of CoP15, the members and alternate members of the Animals Committee and the CITES Secretariat met informally in Doha (Qatar). Mr Carlos Ibero Solana (Spain) was designated interim Chair. No interim Vice-Chair was appointed at that time, but prior to AC25, Ms Carolina Caceres (Canada) was nominated Vice-Chair of the Animals Committee through electronic correspondence. Both were formally elected in these positions at the beginning of AC25 in Geneva, Switzerland. The composition of the Animals Committee is shown below.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author*

Region	Representative	Alternate
Africa	Mr Khaled Zahzah (Tunisia) Mr Samuel Kasiki (Kenya)	Mr Mostafa Ahmed Mahmoud (Egypt) Mr Moses Maurihungirire (Namibia)
Asia	Mr Mohammad Pourkazemi (Islamic Republic of Iran) Mr Suharsono Soemorumekso (Indonesia)	Mr Nobuo Ishii (Japan) Mr Choo-Hoo Giam (Singapore)
Central and South America and the Caribbean	Mr Marcel Enzo Calvar Agrelo (Uruguay) Mr José Alberto Álvarez Lemus (Cuba)	Ms Nereyda Margarita Estrada Andino (Honduras) Mr Paul Edward Ouboter (Suriname)
Europe	Mr Vincent Fleming (United Kingdom) Mr. Carlos Ibero Solana (Spain)	Mr Mathias Loertscher (Switzerland) Mr Radu Suci (Romania)
North America	Ms Carolina Caceres (Canada)	Ms Rosemarie Gnam (United States of America)
Oceania	Mr Hugh Robertson (New Zealand)	Mr Rod Hay (New Zealand)
Nomenclature specialist		
Ms Ute Grimm (Germany)		

5. All representatives attended AC25 and AC26. The required regional reports were presented at the two meetings, explaining the relevant CITES activities undertaken by the regional representatives and in general in the regions. At AC25, the Animals Committee reviewed the content and purpose of regional reports and, in order to reduce the reporting burden on Parties and regional representatives, agreed to a revised and streamlined format for such reports in future, and to reduce the time allocated to regional reports at meetings.
6. The Chair of the Animals Committee attended the following meetings:
 - a) the 3rd ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPEBS), 7-11 June, 2010, Republic of Korea;
 - b) the 4th Meeting of the Chairs of Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB), Gland, Switzerland, 13 February 2011;
 - c) the Asian snake trade workshop, Guangzhou, China, 11-14 April 2011;
 - d) the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee, Geneva, Switzerland, 15-19 August 2011;
 - e) the 5th Meeting of the Chairs of Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB), Dublin, Ireland, 25 March 2012; and
 - f) the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee, Geneva, Switzerland, 23-27 July 2012.

Main topics covered

7. The Secretariat prepared document AC25 Doc. 8.1 on Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Animals Committee, which was submitted for consideration by the Committee at its first meeting after CoP15. Annexes 1 and 2 to that document presented all the instructions directed to the Animals Committee or that may require consulting or informing the Committee. These instructions are contained in the Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties currently in effect.

8. Some of the topics that were covered at the Committee's joint meeting with the Plants Committee are simply listed in this report, and the recommendations that emerged from the discussions are recorded in various documents prepared jointly by the Chairs of the two Committees (see documents CoP16 Doc. 23, CoP16 Doc. 33, CoP16 Doc.39, and CoP16 Doc. 74.1).
9. Listed below are the Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Animals Committee and the results achieved. The documents cited are available on the CITES website. A number of issues are only briefly mentioned in this report because they are dealt with in more detail under separate agenda items and are the subject of distinct documents. The relevant recommendations and measures, as proposed by the Animals Committee to CoP16, are specified in these separate documents.

Resolutions directed to the Animals Committee or instructions that may involve it

Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev.) on *Use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade*

10. Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev) requires the Animals Committee to monitor developments in microchip-implant technology and application techniques and to advise the Secretariat about such developments, for the information of the Parties. During the period covered by this report, no action has been undertaken by the Committee.

Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*

11. During the period covered by this report, the Committee was not required and did not see the need to undertake particular actions concerning assignments for the Animals Committee in this resolution.

Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP15) on *Inclusion of species in Appendix III*

12. Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP 15) provides that the Animals Committee be consulted when Parties wish to include species in Appendix III. In April 2011, the United States of America consulted the Animals Committee on the potential effects of including a large aquatic salamander, the hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*), in Appendix III of CITES. The consultation was informal because the deadline by which United States had asked the Committee to comment did not allowed to have the relevant documentation in all CITES working languages. Based on the fact that the species is endemic to the United States where is protected in most States where it occurs, and that the proposed Appendix-III listing would include live and dead whole specimens and all readily recognizable parts, products, and derivatives of the species, the Animals Committee expressed its positive views on this amendment to the United States. Furthermore, the Committee made some nomenclatural remarks and recommended to provide guidance on identification of this species when included in Appendix III.

Resolution Conf.10.21 (Rev. CoP14) on *Transport of live specimens*

13. Transport of live specimens was on the agenda of the two meetings of the Committee covered by this report. After AC25 and at AC26, the topic was addressed jointly with the Plants Committee. The deliberations, results and recommendations are presented in document CoP16 Doc. 39.

Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15) on *Establishment of Committees*

14. With respect to the requirements laid down in Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15), the Animals Committee fulfilled the responsibilities and functions assigned by the Conference of the Parties.
15. At the join session of AC26 and the 20th meeting of the Plants Committee (AC26/PC20, Dublin, March 2012), the Committees agreed to amend Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15) in the light of their implementation of Decision 12.91 (*Capacity-building programmes for science-based establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species*). The Animals and Plants Committees prepared a joint document on the issue of capacity building for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its present meeting. This includes a proposal to amendment Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15) (see document CoP16. Doc. 23).

Resolution Conf. 11.12 (Rev. CoP15) on *Universal tagging system for the identification of crocodylian skins*

16. The Committee did not undertake actions concerning its assignments in Resolution Conf. 11.12 (Rev. CoP15) during the period covered by this report.

Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) on *Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II*

17. The Committee did not undertake actions concerning its assignments in Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) during the period covered by this report.

Resolution Conf. 11.19 on *Identification Manual*

18. The Animals Committee dealt with this issue in its two meetings covered by this report, and in both, after encouraging discussions and deliberations, the Committee noted the reports presented by the Secretariat on this matter.

19. The Animals Committee continued to work with Parties, range States, and non-governmental organizations, with particular input from enforcement officers, to ensure that materials are available to facilitate the identification of CITES-listed animals. In addition to encouraging further contributions to the CITES Wiki Identification Manual and supporting efforts to improve content and access, the Animals Committee, in collaboration with Parties, range States, and non-governmental organizations, has been working to improve existing materials or develop new materials as part of the tasks of several of its taxon-specific working groups. These include:

- Identification materials for *Lynx* species;
- Evaluating existing identification material for live snakes, parts and derivatives, and exploring identification methodologies to differentiate between wild and captive-bred CITES-listed snakes, including forensic techniques; and
- Continued work to explore development of a uniform DNA-based identification system for parts and derivatives of sturgeons from the Caspian Sea.

Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) on *Conservation and Management of Sharks (Class Chondrichthyes)*

20. This issue was on the agenda of AC25 and AC26. The deliberations and conclusions of the Committee on this issue are presented in document CoP16 Doc. 61.

Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish*

21. This issue was on the agenda of AC25 and AC26. The deliberations and conclusions of the Committee on this issue are presented in document CoP16 Doc. 60.1.

Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*

22. Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) provides for an ongoing task for the Animals Committee that was on the agenda of AC25 and AC26.

Species selected following CoP13

23. At AC25, a deadline of 15 January 2012 was established for the completion by relevant range States of recommendations formulated by the Committee for *Mantella crocea*, *M. expectata* and *M. viridis*.

Species selected following CoP14

24. At AC25, the Committee reviewed 24 species that it had selected for the Review of Significant Trade, and categorised these by range States of least concern (38 species-country combinations were thus excluded from the review) and possible concern (20 species-country combinations that were retained for further review). Recommendations were formulated and adopted by the Committee for all of the latter cases. The Committee noted that if trade in *Brookesia decaryi* from Madagascar (classified as least concern) were to resume, the species should be re-evaluated for inclusion in the review.

25. At AC25, the Committee also reviewed the responses from range States of species selected for review at AC24. It either eliminated species-country combinations (22 combinations) or retained them in the review (97 combinations). In doing so, the Committee congratulated the Solomon Islands on their work on *Tursiops truncatus* (species retained in the review), noting that the review should take account of the population surveys then being undertaken. Regrettably, this information was not available in time for consideration at AC26. The Committee also recommended that the working group on the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade consider the implications of species being eliminated on the basis of a zero quota and for which trade is then subsequently resumed.
26. At AC26, the 97 species-country combinations retained in the review were categorised as of urgent concern (7 species-country combinations), possible concern (18 species-country combinations) or least concern (the remainder). Recommendations were formulated and adopted by the Committee for all species of urgent and possible concern.
27. The Committee also considered information provided by Madagascar on *Calumma* and *Furcifer* spp. The Committee endorsed the suggested export quota for *F. campani* and also zero quotas for several other species of *Furcifer* and *Calumma*, and agreed to transmit this information to the Standing Committee for its consideration. The Committee took note of Madagascar's intention to establish an export quota for these species in due course, noting that any removal of the recommended trade suspension has to be agreed to by the Standing Committee. Based on information provided by Madagascar, the Committee furthermore agreed to an increase in the export quota for *Mantella baroni* (a species that it had removed from its review at AC23).
28. Issues identified during the conduct of its review of significant trade but that were not relating directly to the implementation of Article IV of the Convention were referred by the Animals Committee to the Standing Committee or the Secretariat for their consideration.

Species selected following CoP15

29. At AC25, and based on trade reviews provided by the Secretariat's consultant UNEP-WCMC, the Committee selected 23 new taxa for inclusion in the review. However, for *Psittacus erithacus* the Committee excluded all those range States that had recently been subject to recommendations under the review and which remained in effect. The Order Antipatharia was also selected noting that the review was to include all species in all range States. The Committee invited the Secretariat to reassure the relevant Parties when consulting them that a decision to include a species in the Review of Significant Trade was not, at the outset, intended to be a punitive measure and that if the Committee were satisfied with the responses, the review would conclude. Separately, the Committee also decided to include *Mantella bernhardi* in the review as a species of priority concern.
30. Subsequently, the Committee reviewed responses from range States at AC26. 101 species-country combinations were removed from the review (including *M. bernhardi*) and 238 species-country combinations retained for which the Secretariat would compile information on the biology and management of, and trade in, the species. However, many such species-country combinations were retained in the review due to the lack of a response from the range State; in these cases, and before the compilation of information, range States for which there had been no commercial trade recorded in the last 10 years would be removed from the review with the agreement of, and in consultation with, the Committee.
31. The Committee noted the difficulty of reviewing the numerous responses from range States in the short period of time they were available and recommended that this issue be referred to the working group on the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade. The Committee also recommended that the Secretariat asked range States, when consulting them, whether they would agree for their responses to be made publicly available (in the Review of Significant trade Management System) to facilitate the early distribution of replies.
32. The Committee noted that some *Hippocampus* spp. were reported to occur in countries for which there was no record in the UNEP-WCMC database. The Committee recommended that references be provided to support these reports of occurrence but did not feel able to deviate from the standard practice of using the UNEP-WCMC species database as the reference to identify range States.

Programme for the conservation and sustainable use of *Falco cherrug* in Mongolia

33. At its 58th meeting, the Standing Committee withdrew its recommendation to Parties to suspend trade in specimens of *Falco cherrug* from Mongolia on condition that, before establishing an export quota for 2011, it reported to, and took the advice of the Animals Committee. At AC25, the Committee endorsed the positive management regime for *F. cherrug* established by Mongolia, agreed to its proposed export quota of 300 live specimens for 2011, and invited Mongolia to provide an update on the progress of this work at the 27th meeting of the Committee.

Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Register of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

34. In compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15), the Animals Committee was consulted on the objection presented by Indonesia on the application by the Philippines to register Birds International Inc. as a breeder of *Cacatua moluccensis*, *C. sulphurea abbotti*, *C. s. citrinocristata* and *C. s. sulphurea*. The Committee took advantage of the proximity of AC26 to deal with this issue at that meeting instead of discussing it by e.mail.
35. A working group that was restricted to Committee members was established at AC26. After an extensive discussion in plenary, the Committee adopted document AC26 WG8 Doc. 1 with the amendments noted in the executive summary of 20 March AC26 Sum. 4 (Rev. 1). These comments from the Committee were forwarded to Indonesia and the Philippines by the Secretariat for their consideration in accordance with the Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15). The main issues addressed were the proof of the legal origin of the parental breeding stock; the trade volume in the concerned taxa before the Philippines became a Party to CITES; and the fact whether a delay on the implementation of a species conservation action plan between the two Parties concerned, as part of the signed MoU, was a reason to object the registration.

Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP15) on Standard nomenclature

36. This issue is an ongoing activity of the Committee, and was therefore addressed at AC25 and AC26. Besides that, the Nomenclature Specialist in the Committee had to cover many other duties required by a number of provisions of CITES which are developed all year round. All this work is explained in document CoP 16 Doc. 43.1.

Resolution Conf. 13.4 on Conservation of and trade in great apes

37. No action was undertaken by the Committee on this issue during the period covered by this report.

Resolution Conf. 14.3 on CITES compliance procedures

38. With respect to the requirements laid down in Resolution Conf. 14.3, the Animals Committee fulfilled the responsibilities and functions assigned by the Conference of the Parties.

Resolution Conf. 14.8 on Periodic review of the Appendices

39. With respect to the requirements laid down in Resolution Conf. 14.8, the Animals Committee fulfilled the responsibilities and functions assigned by the Conference of the Parties.
40. Seeking to improve the performance of the periodic review of the Appendices, the Committee agreed at AC25 to consider the adoption of several measures, including: (i) collaborating with graduate students and other non-Party reviewers, including taxon experts such as IUCN Specialist Groups; (ii) using readily available information; (iii) asking range States to conduct reviews of endemic species; and (iv) contacting the Plants Committee Periodic Review Working Group Chair to suggest coordination where Parties are reviewing plant and animal species from the same country. Some of these measures (particularly the use of Red Data List assessment information and WCMC trade data, and involving IUCN/SSC Specialist Groups) were successfully used for the periodic review of the 16 species of Galliformes, and that could serve as a model for conducting future reviews (see document AC26 Doc 13.2.1).
41. At AC25, the Committee adopted the recommendations of the respective reviewers to retain *Colinus virginianus ridgwayi* in Appendix I, to transfer *Tympanuchus cupido attwateri* to Appendix II, and to retain *Crocodylus amazonicus* in Appendix II. All three reviews had been undertaken by the United States.

42. For *Tympanuchus cupido attwateri*, the United States prepared the relevant amendment proposal for submission to CoP16 by the Depositary Government.
43. In compliance with Resolution Conf. 14.8, paragraphs b), c) and d), and in consultation with the UNEP-WCMC, the Committee selected 41 animal taxa at AC25 that could be reviewed between CoP15 and the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2010-2016). This concerns species that had not been recorded in trade and were classified by IUCN as “extinct”. The complete list of these species was included in Notification to the Parties No. 2011/038 of 21 September 2011.
44. At AC26, the Committee adopted the following recommendations for species that it had selected for its periodic review between CoP13 (2004) and CoP15 (2010): *Andrias davidianus* (reviewed by China), *Catreus wallichii*, *Crossoptilon harmani*, *Lophophorus impejanus*, *Lophophorus lhuysii*, *Lophophorus sclateri*, *Mitu mitu*, *Syrmaticus humiae* and *Tragopan melanocephalus* to be retained in Appendix I; *Tetraogallus caspius* and *Tetraogallus tibetanu* to be transferred from Appendix I to II; *Argusianus argus*, *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* and *Polyplectron germaini* to be retained in Appendix II; and *Rheobatrachus silus*, *Rheobatrachus vitellinus*, *Gallus sonneratii* and *Ithaginis cruentus* to be removed from Appendix II:
45. In line with the Animals Committee’s recommendations mentioned in paragraph 44, amendment proposals for *Tetraogallus caspius*, *Tetraogallus tibetanus*, *Gallus sonneratii* and *Ithaginis cruentus* were being prepared by New Zealand, and for the two *Reobatrachus* species by Australia.
46. For several species selected for the periodic review following CoP15, the Committee agreed at AC26 the following: *Bolyeria multocarinata* to be retained in Appendix I; *Thylacinus cynocephalus*, *Onychogale alunata*, *Caloprymnus campestris*, *Chaeropus ecaudatus*, *Macrotis leucura*, *Podilymbus gigas* and *Psephotus pulcherrimus* to be removed from Appendix I; *Sminthopsis longicaudata* to be transferred from Appendix I to II; and *Pteropus brunneus*, *Pteropus subniger*, *Caracara lutosa*, *Sceloglaux albifacies* and *Phelsuma gigas* to be removed from Appendix II.
47. Among the former, *Caracara lutosa*, considered extinct, was reviewed by Mexico (see the annex to document AC26 Doc. 13.3). Mexico intends to present an amendment proposal to CoP16 on behalf of the Animals Committee.
48. Also in the group of species selected for review since CoP15, *Lophura imperialis* was reviewed by France which prepared an amendment proposal to delete it from Appendix I. After review by postal procedure, the Animals Committee agreed to this conclusion. It is expected that a proposal will be submitted to CoP16 by the Depositary Government. *Rupicapra pyrenaica ornata* and *Papilio hospiton* were reviewed by France and Italy, and prepared amendment proposals to transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II with a view to later delisting. These proposals were evaluated and approved by the Animals Committee by postal procedure, and should be submitted to CoP16 by the Party having the Presidency of the European Union.
49. Cuba has offered to review *Chondrohierax uncinatus wilsonii* and *Grus canadensis nesiotus*, Australia *Lichenostomus melanops cassidix*, *Cyclopsitta diophthalma coxeni*, *Psephotus dissimilis* *Psephotus pulcherrimus* and *Ninox novaeseelandiae*, and United States will review *Pteropus tokudae*, *Grus canadensis pulla*, *Epicrates inornatus* and *Epioblasma sampsonii*.
50. At AC26, the Committee requested that in future, periodic review summary tables, the Secretariat complete the information under “IUCN category” and “Range States”. It also requested that, under “Notes”, the status currently reported as “In progress” distinguish actively-ongoing reviews from those for which no action had been taken since the selection of the species, and indicate the countries responsible for the reviews.
50. At AC26, the Committee requested that the Secretariat include information from the IUCN Red List, as well as the species range States in its tables that summarized the status of the species selected for the periodic review. It also requested that under “Notes”, the currently reported “In progress” distinguish actively-ongoing reviews from those for which no action had been taken since the selection of the species. The countries responsible for the reviews should also be indicated, as well as contact details of relevant IUCN/SSC Specialist Groups.
51. Lastly, the Committee at AC26, in collaboration with the Plants Committee, agreed to prepare and submit at joint AC/PC document at SC62, proposing a revision of Resolution Conf. 14.8 as well as other recommendations to improve this process.

52. The proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 14.8 build upon the recommendations made at AC26, AC26/PC20 and the 20th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee. The Plants Committee agreed that its Chair, in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, inform SC62 of these proposed amendments which respond to concerns of the Standing Committee to improve the efficiency of the process (see document SC62 Doc. 53.2). The Standing Committee endorsed the submission at CoP16 of the revised version of Resolution Conf. 14.8 contained in the Annex to document SC62 Doc. 53.2, and agreed that amendments suggested during the discussion at SC62 would be added in square brackets. The Committee agreed to refer the suggestion in paragraph 14. c) of document SC62 Doc. 53.2 to its Finance and Budget Subcommittee.
53. The proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 14.8 is further discussed in document CoP16 Doc. 74.1.

Resolution Conf. 15.1 on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the biennium 2012-2013*

54. With respect to the implementation of this Resolution, the Animals Committee met in Geneva, Switzerland twice following CoP15 during AC25 and AC26. AC26/PC20 was held in Dublin, Ireland, in March 2012. The Committee extends its thanks to the Government of Ireland for kindly hosting this productive meeting.
55. The Chair of the Committee was consulted on three occasions during the period covered by this report to assign scientific consultants and define terms of reference for specific science-based projects as follows: (i) two contracts for UNEP-WCMC to develop documents in support of the Review of Significant Trade in Specimens of Appendix-II Species; and (ii) a contract for Dr Mark Auliya (Department. of Conservation Biology, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig, Germany) to coordinate the preparation of background documents for an Asian snake trade workshop convened by the Secretariat in compliance with Decision 15.75.

Decisions directed to the Animals Committee or instructions that may involve it

Biodiversity indicators Partnership (Decision 15.11)

56. This issue was dealt with at AC25. The Secretariat gave an oral presentation noting that, following the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Nagoya, October 2010), the future of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership was unclear. The Secretariat would keep a watching brief on indicator processes under CBD and ensure that CITES continued to be reflected in them. The Committee noted the Secretariat's presentation.

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (Decision 15.12)

57. The Committee dealt with this issue at AC25 and AC26, and in particular at AC26/PC20. Deliberations and conclusions on this issue are presented in document CoP16 Doc. 12.

Climate change (Decision 15.15)

58. At AC25, the Committee established a joint intersessional working group on climate change in collaboration with the Plants Committee. The working group was tasked with reviewing the scientific aspects of six specific provisions of the Convention and Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties that were actually or likely to be affected by climate change. These were: species listings [Resolutions Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) and Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP15)]; non-detriment findings (Articles III and IV); Periodic Review of the Appendices (Resolution Conf. 14.8); Review of Significant Trade [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), to the extent that this pertained to Article IV (non-detriment findings)]; quotas [Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15)]; and Trade in alien invasive species [Resolution Conf. 13.10 (Rev. CoP14)].
59. At AC26/PC20, the Committees reviewed and discussed the report of the working group. It was noted that the six science-based decision-making processes could generally be grouped into those that relate to species listings [Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) and Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP15)] and those that relate to non-detriment findings (NDFs; Articles III and IV of the Convention). The other processes under consideration were nested within these. It was observed that the six processes, as currently written, provided the scope to consider the impacts of climate change on species in trade, even if "climate change" was not explicitly mentioned. It was also recognized that there was a need for Parties to use the best

available scientific information and to share expertise regarding climate change impacts in CITES scientific decision-making processes. To this end, suggestions for actions which could be taken to improve the access of Parties to available information on climate change, and to improve understanding of impacts of climate change on species within the CITES context were offered.

60. The Committees concluded that the current provisions of the Convention and of Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties were sufficiently comprehensive and flexible to take into account the implications of climate change for science-based decision-making, noting that some observers expressed the view that there was need for further work to develop guidance on incorporating climate change science into CITES decision-making processes. The Committees submitted their findings to SC62 in fulfilment of Decision 15.15 (see document SC62 Doc. 18).

Capacity-building programme for science-based establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species (Decision 12.91)

61. Decision 12.91 was worked out jointly by the Animals and Plants Committees, which deliberations and conclusions are presented in document CoP16 Doc. 23.

Non-detriment findings

62. The Committee dealt with this issue at AC25 and AC26, and in particular at AC26/PC20. Deliberations and conclusions on this issue are presented in document CoP16 Doc. 33.

Periodic Review of the Appendices - Felidae [Decision 13.93 (Rev. CoP 15)]

63. The Committee dealt with issue at AC25 and AC26. Deliberations and conclusions on this issue are presented in document CoP16 Doc. 74.2.

Criteria for the inclusion of species in Appendices I and II (Decisions 15.28, 15.29 and 15.30)

64. At AC25, the Committee considered the reports submitted by the Secretariat, FAO and TRAFFIC/IUCN summarizing their experience in applying criterion Annex 2 a B and the introductory text to Annex 2 a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) to some or all of the commercially exploited aquatic species that were proposed for inclusion on Appendix II at the 13th, 14th and 15th meetings of the Conference of the Parties. An intersessional working group was established to develop guidance on applying this criterion and presented its results at AC26. On that occasion, the Animals Committee noted the following:

- a) While there are diverse approaches to the application of Annex 2a criterion B, there is commonality in that all Parties and those reviewing listing proposals should take a taxon-specific approach that is sensitive to species vulnerabilities and they should be mindful of the precautionary approach as outlined in annex 4 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15).
- b) Vulnerability is defined in Annex 5 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) as the susceptibility to intrinsic or external effects which increase the risk of extinction, and examples of intrinsic and extrinsic factors are provided. Further, the footnote to decline in annex 5 reiterates that "account needs to be taken of taxon- and case- specific biological and other factors that are likely to affect extinction risk."
- c) When considering whether a species qualifies for listing on CITES Appendix II, parties and those reviewing listing proposals should be aware that, when numerical guidelines or thresholds are provided, they are presented only as examples, since it is impossible to give numerical values that are applicable to all taxa because of differences in their biology.
- d) When considering whether a species qualifies for listing on CITES Appendix II, the analysis done by Parties and those reviewing listing proposals are influenced by their level of risk tolerance, which itself is informed by the quality and quantity of available information, their objectives, and their experiences. The variability in Parties' and those reviewing proposals' risk tolerance may be more pronounced when considering commercially exploited aquatic species.
- e) The foregoing points are useful to consider and be mindful of when preparing or evaluating proposals to list commercially exploited aquatic species on Appendix II.

65. The Animals Committee concluded that there were diverse approaches to the application of Annex 2a criterion B in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15). The Animals Committee found that it was not possible to provide guidance preferring or favoring one approach over another. The Animals Committee recommends that Parties, when applying Annex 2a criterion B when drafting or submitting proposals to amend the CITES Appendices, explain their approach to that criterion, and how the taxon qualifies for the proposed amendment.
66. When drafting and submitting proposals to amend the CITES Appendices with respect to commercially exploited aquatic species, the Animals Committee further encouraged Parties to elucidate the vulnerabilities, as defined in Annex 5 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15), and mitigating factors including, but not limited to, large absolute numbers, refugia and fisheries management measures that they have considered.
67. The Animals Committee noted the lack of a definition of commercially-exploited aquatic species in the existing body of CITES documentation, and further notes that FAO documentation indicates that commercially-exploited aquatic species refer to fish and invertebrate species found in marine environments or in large freshwater bodies and subject to commercial exploitation.
68. The Animals Committee also noted the issue of how to determine whether a commercially exploited aquatic species qualifies for listing on CITES Appendix II when that species is found in multiple stocks or subpopulations with varying statuses. The issue was raised in the papers provided by the CITES Secretariat, FAO and IUCN/TRAFFIC (document AC25 Doc. 10), further discussed by Germany (document AC25 Inf. 10) and referenced in discussions of the Animals Committee working group on criteria. There was recognition of the complexity of the issue and differing views on how to approach this matter.
69. The Animals Committee concluded their work under Decision 15.29 with a report of their findings to SC62 (see document SC62 Doc. 39). The Animals Committee invited the Standing Committee to consider the merit of continuing a discussion on this matter within CITES.

Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II (Decision 15.51)

70. The Committee dealt with this issue at AC25. Deliberations and Conclusions are presented in document CoP16 Doc. 72.

Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade [Decision 13.67 (Rev. CoP 14)]

71. At AC25, the Committee noted with appreciation the support being provided by the European Commission to undertake the case studies of species previously identified by the Animals and Plants Committee. The Committee also endeavoured to finalize the membership of the Advisory Working Group for the Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade (see document AC25 Doc. 9.1). However, in some cases participants from certain country members of the Advisory Working Group could not be identified. Regional representatives on the Committee offered to follow up with the relevant countries and communicate names to the Secretariat.
72. The Committee undertook this work jointly with the Plants Committee. At AC26/PC20, the Committees commented on the case studies prepared and presented by TRAFFIC. The Committees also confirmed the membership of the Advisory Working Group for the evaluation and were informed that Germany had offered to host a meeting of this Working Group at the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the Isle of Vilm, Germany, in June 2012. The Committee takes this opportunity to warmly thank the German CITES authorities for their generous support. During the joint session, the Animals Committee in collaboration with the Plants Committee developed an agenda for the meeting of the advisory working group for the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade. The Committees also provided instructions in the form of issues for consideration and prepared a roadmap of milestones towards the fulfilling the requirements under the terms of references for the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade and submitting a final report at CoP17.
73. The face-to-face meeting of the Advisory Working Group for the evaluation was held 24 to 28 June 2012. The Advisory Working Group focussed their attention on key areas for possible improvement in the Review of Significant Trade process as outlined in the agenda prepared by the Committees. This included the examination of issues related to the selection of species; correspondence and communications;

categorization of species/countries; recommendations and implementation of recommendations; and non-article IV issues. It also included identification of other issues that influence the effectiveness of the Review of Significant Trade. The Advisory Working Group identified that, to be effective, the Review of Significant Trade should be proportional, transparent, timely and simple. It should help build the capacity of the Scientific Authorities to carry out their non-detriment findings as the making of an effective, proportional and science based non-detriment finding is critical to the effectiveness of the Convention. Core to this was the presence of an effective, empowered and resourced Scientific Authority.

74. At the time of submission of this report, the Chairs of the Advisory Working Group were finalizing their report of the Advisory Working Group meeting with the aim of facilitating further electronic intersessional work for presentation at the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee and 21st meeting of the Plants Committee.

Production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species (Decisions 15.52 and 15.53)

75. At AC25, the Animals Committee noted a progress report from the Secretariat on the development of a guide to the appropriate use of source codes (Decision 15.52) which indicated that the Chair would be consulted on the terms of reference for the study and that funding for the production of the guide then seemed to be likely. Subsequently, in the absence of external funding, no further progress could be made in the implementation of these Decisions and thus no action by the Committee has been possible.

Transport of live specimens (Decision 15.59)

76. Transport of live specimens was on the agenda of AC25 and AC26, and AC26/PC20. The deliberations and results are presented in document CoP16 Doc. 39

Standard nomenclature (Decisions 15.62 and 15.63)

77. This issue was on the agenda of AC25 and AC26. The deliberations and conclusions are presented in document CoP16 Doc. 43.1.

Identification of CITES-listed corals in trade (Decisions 15.64 and 15.65)

78. As required in Decision 15.64.b, the Animals Committee formed an inter-sessional working group at AC25 to review and, if necessary, update the list of coral taxa for which identification to genus level is acceptable, but which should be identified to species level where feasible. At AC26, the Animals Committee adopted a revised list as recommended by the working group, noting that this list would require revision to conform to any standard nomenclature reference for CITES-listed corals (arising from work done separately under decision 15.64.a) which might be adopted at the 16th Conference of the Parties.
79. As required by Decision 15.65, the revised list of species was communicated to the Parties by the Secretariat in Notification to the Parties No. 2012/047 of 19 July 2012.

Great whales (Decision 14.81)

80. No action has been taken by the Committee on this issue during the period covered by this report.

Snake trade and conservation management (Decisions 15.75, 15.76 and 15.77)

81. CoP15 agreed to Decision 17.75, instructing the Secretariat to organize a workshop on snake trade and conservation management. Further, in Decision 15.76, the Animals Committee was tasked to consider the results of this workshop and provide their recommendations to the Standing Committee for its consideration.
82. On 11-14 April 2011, a workshop on Asian snake trade was held in Guangzhou, China. The Animals Committee considered the results of this workshop at AC25 in a working group and formulated a range of recommendations to the Standing Committee (see document SC61 46.2).
83. It tasked an inter-sessional working group to collate and evaluate existing identification materials for live snakes, parts and derivatives, and make recommendations at AC26 regarding the need for additional materials. With the assistance of the Secretariat, existing materials should be brought to the attention of

the Parties. As this inter-sessional working group could not finalize its work by AC26, it was tasked to continue and conclude its work by the end of 2012.

84. At AC26, the Animals Committee recommended a Decision to be forwarded for adoption to COP16 which reads as follows:

Decision directed to the Animals Committee:

The Animals Committee shall at its 27th meeting consider the final IUCN red list assessments for Asian snake species and, if available, incorporate new information and data and make appropriate recommendations, including recommendations to the Standing Committee.

85. At AC26, the Animals Committee made a series of recommendations for the Standing Committee, including to consider the results of the UNCTAD Biotrade Initiative's Working Group about the "International Traceability System for Snake Skins" as well as the results of the ITC study on the "Trade of Python snakes in Asia" (see document AC26 WG5 Doc. 1 and its amendments agreed to in plenary).
87. On behalf of the Animals Committee, the Chair intends to bring the draft decision mentioned in paragraph 84 to the attention of the Parties when item 57 is discussed later during the meeting, and propose that it be adopted.

Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Decision 15.79)

88. This issue was on the agenda of AC25 and AC26. Deliberations and conclusions are presented in document CoP16 Doc. 58.1.

Sea cucumbers [Decision 14.100 (rev. CoP15)]

89. This issue was on the agenda of AC25 and AC26. Deliberations and conclusions are presented in document CoP16 Doc. 64.

Other topics dealt with by the Animals Committee and not related to Resolutions or Decisions

Relationship between wildlife trade and wildlife diseases

90. The Committee dealt with this issue at AC25 and AC26. It recognized the importance of wildlife trade and wildlife diseases, and the linkages with CITES. However, it believed that wildlife diseases were best addressed by other organizations, such as the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and was concerned about the Secretariat's limited resources to get involved in these issues. It therefore recommended that the Standing Committee decide on the level of priority that the Secretariat should give to this issue, proposing in particular to change the Secretariat's status in the CMS/FAO Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Diseases from "core affiliate" to "observer" or "partner", which would be less demanding but still allow it to share information. The Animals Committee also agreed that it would be useful for the Standing Committee to draw the Parties' attention to the work of OIE and to its relevance to CITES, and to the possible incidental impact of disease control measures on programmes designed to ensure the sustainable use of wildlife.

Proposals to amend the Appendices

91. The following proposals (or draft proposals) to amend the Appendices were submitted for comments to the Animals Committee at AC26:

- a) **Draft proposal to transfer *Trichechus senegalensis* from Appendix II to Appendix I.** The Secretariat introduced document AC26 Doc. 26.1, explaining that the draft amendment proposal contained in the Annex was being submitted for comments. None of the six proponents of the proposal was represented at the meeting, but the regional representative of Africa (Mr Zahzah) had received a written statement from Senegal to introduce the proposal and Senegal had requested the statement to be read into the record. Mr. Zahzah read the statement to the meeting.

After discussion, the Committee considered that there were doubts as to whether the draft proposal met the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. In particular, it seemed that there was little or no international trade. More specific information on the type and volume of international trade proving its

impact on the species would strengthen the proposal. Additionally, not enough information was provided on population trends, and historical and current population sizes. On the basis of the document provided, measures taken at the national level seemed better suited to address the conservation concerns.

- b) **Draft proposal to include *Lamna nasus* in Appendix II.** Germany introduced the draft amendment proposal contained in the Annex to document AC26 Doc. 26.2, indicating that this was a first draft and that they welcomed comments and questions. Formal consultations would be carried out if the Member States of the European Union decided to go forward with this proposal. The Chair asked participants to focus on the way the information was presented and not on whether the species should be listed or not. Two delegations assessed the proposal favourably and said that they would send comments directly to Germany subsequently, whilst another thought that the species did not meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.

This draft proposal was dealt with at the working group on sharks but there was not any formal conclusion or recommendation from the working group nor from the Committee.

- c) **Draft proposal to delete *Campephilus imperialis* from the Appendices.** The Secretariat gave a brief introduction of document AC26 Doc. 26.3 and Mexico introduced the draft amendment proposal contained in the Annex. According to the study that had been carried out, the species had become extinct between 1946 and 1965 as a result of loss of habitat and local hunting, but not international trade. The species met the criteria for deletion from the Appendices laid out in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15). The original intention had been to present it as part of the Periodic Review of the Appendices, but this had not been possible because the species had not been selected in the review at the previous meeting of the Committee. Mexico had therefore decided to present it as an amendment proposal.

The Committee considered that the draft proposal by Mexico to remove *Campephilus imperialis* from Appendix I met the criteria for such a deletion and commended Mexico for the quality of the proposal.

92. The need for species considered extinct to be transferred from Appendix I to II before they could be deleted from the Appendices was questioned, as it had already been under agenda item 13.3. The Chair reiterated that a revision of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) in this regard might be in order.

Budget of the Animals Committee

93. As a minimum, the Animals Committee will require for the triennium 2013-2015 the same support as in the preceding three years. The Committee calls on the Parties to give consideration to approving a supplementary budget, estimated by the CITES Secretariat, to support the chairmanship, and particularly when this position would be held by an individual from a developing country.

Acknowledgement

94. To end with, I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to the members of the Animals Committee for their commitment, their continuous support, the tremendous work they have done in many occasions and the strong team spirit that they have shown when necessary. My gratitude goes also to the Chair of the Standing Committee for his commitment with the work of the Animals Committee, for having taken the very constructive habit of attending our meetings. But my very special gratitude is for the Chair of the Plants Committee, Margarita Clemente, an old friend and colleague. She is an even older chair of the Plants Committee and thus highly knowledgeable about the chairmanship tasks, and I have benefited enormously from being her pupil on many occasions, even if she was not always aware of it. Many members of the Secretariat were often of particular help, and I was lucky to share very good moments with them, especially those of the Scientific Support Unit, such as David Morgan, Tom De Meulenaer, Robert Boljesic (no more at the Secretariat) and Milena Sosa Schmidt, but also of course to John Scanlon, Jonathan Barzdo, Juan Carlos Vasquez, Marcos Silva, Marceyl Yeater, Maritza de Campos, Victoria Zentilli and Laurent Gauthier. Thanks also to the many observers of the Parties and to all the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their very valuable contributions on the many topics covered by the Committee during the period reported here. Finally, I have to very specially thank the Scientific and Management Authorities of my country, Spain for the help and support received in the performance of my duties as Chair of the Animals Committee.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The report of the Chair of the Animals Committee refers to specific Animals Committee activities and issues that are dealt with jointly by the Animals and Plants Committees. Many are the subject of separate agenda items. The Secretariat provides its comments on these issues under the corresponding agenda items.
- B. The Secretariat recommends adoption of the draft decision in paragraph 84 of the document, which the Animals Committee Chair intends to submit for consideration under agenda item 57 on *Snake trade and conservation management*.
- C. The Secretariat shares the view of the Chair of the Animals Committee, expressed in paragraph 92, that there is a need to amend Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) to allow for the treatment of species that are considered extinct. The Secretariat suggests the adoption of the following draft decision, which may permit consideration of this issue:

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

- 16.A The Animals and Plants Committees shall review the provisions of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II* as they apply to species that are either extinct or possibly extinct and report to the Standing Committee on their findings.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.B The Standing Committee shall consider the report of the Animals and Plants Committees referred to in Decision 16.A and make recommendations for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as appropriate.

- D. On the basis of the present document and as indicated by the Chairman of the Animals Committee, it is recommended that:
 - i) the following Decisions be deleted: 15.11, 15.29, 15.64 and 15.65; and
 - ii) the following Decisions be maintained: 13.67 (Rev. CoP14), 15.52, 15.53 and 14.81.

The following Decisions that are referred to in the present document are discussed under separate agenda items: 15.12, 15.15, 15.23, 15.24, 12.91, 13.93 (Rev. CoP15), 15.28, 15.30, 15.51, 15.59, 15.62, 15.63, 15.75, 15.76, 15.77, 15.79, 15.85 and 14.100 (Rev. CoP15).